

REMARKS

Claims 1-20, 22-25, and 27-30 are all the pending claims.

Claims 1 and 11 are herein amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 21 and 26, respectively. Claims 21 and 26 have been canceled. Dependency has been adjusted appropriately.

New claims 27-30 are added. Support for the new claims is found in Figs. 9-11 of the originally filed drawings.

I. Election/Restrictions

Claims 2-10, 12-20, and 24 are withdrawn from this application.

II. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1 and 11 because of informalities. The informalities are corrected, and Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this objection.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 11, 21-23 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Koji et al. (JP 2000-190513).

The following remarks are for claim 1, but apply by analogy to claim 11. Herein amended claim 1 requires:

wherein the liquid restricting portion has a notch portion at a vicinity of a boundary of the frame portion and the protective wall portion; and

wherein the notch portion includes an enclosed opening that does not communicate with the opening portion of the head cover.

The Examiner asserted that Koji teaches that the liquid restriction portion is provided as a structure that a notch portion is formed at a vicinity of a boundary between the frame portion and the protective wall portion. (Office Action, page 4).

The liquid restricting portion indicated by the Examiner, as cut-out section 53 in Figure 1 of Koji, does not teach or suggest that a notch portion is provided on it. The Examiner indicated that Koji shows a notch portion is provided and teaches that the notch portion is used so as not to interfere with a wiping direction of a wiping device in an operation of cleaning the liquid head. (Office Action, page 4). However, Koji teaches “a cut-out section 53 is formed on a head cover 35 at the side extending along a relative wiping direction of a wiper for wiping the surface of the nozzle plate 41 so that a wiping space that is recessed from the surface of the nozzle plate 41 can be formed.” (Koji, Abstract). Both the Abstract and Figure 1 of Koji show that element 53, cut-out section, allows access for the nozzle plate 41, but the cut-out section 53 is not a notch portion.

Further, even if the Examiner presupposed, *arguendo*, that cut-out section 53 were a notch portion, Koji still fails to disclose “wherein the notch portion includes an enclosed opening that does not communicate with the opening portion of the head cover”. In fact, the cut-out section 53 is the opening portion of the head cover 35 in Koji, and thus, the cut-out section 53 communicates with the opening portion of the head cover 35. Therefore, it cannot be said Koji teaches or suggests that a “notch portion includes an enclosed opening that does not communicate with the opening portion of the head cover”, because both the enclosed opening (cut-out section 53) and the opening portion (cut-out section 53) of the head cover are one in the same.

Because Koji fails to teach or suggest that “the liquid restricting portion has a notch portion at a vicinity of a boundary of the frame portion and the protective wall portion; and wherein the notch portion includes an enclosed opening that does not communicate with the opening portion of the head cover”, Koji fails to disclose the subject matter of claims 1 and 11.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 22 and 23, and also of independent claim 11.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 25 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant has not rewritten the objected to claim in independent form, as Applicant believes that the present response should place this application in condition for allowance.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

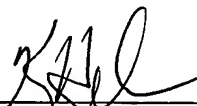
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 9, 2005